

## FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Northeast and northwest (façade) elevations

Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Pamela Hartford

**Organization:** Beverly Historic District Commission

**Date (month / year):** September 2016

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form Number

71-60

Marble-  
head N

BEV.  
S

BEV.256  
(update)

**Town/City:** Beverly

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Centerville

**Address:** 133 Standley Street

**Historic Name:** Centerville Christian Endeavor Church

**Uses:** Present: church

Original: church

**Date of Construction:** 1907-08

**Source:** building permit; church history

**Style/Form:** Victorian eclectic

**Architect/Builder:** Alfred J. Gallagher, builder

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding and trim

Roof: fiberglass asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Side addition (1955) - Vinyl siding (2003) – Replacement windows (2006)

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no ☒    yes ☐    **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.18 acre

**Setting:** Located just off the main rural thoroughfare between downtown Beverly and Wenham, in a cluster of heterogeneous residential development dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> through late 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

BEVERLY

133 STANDLEY STREET

Area(s) Form No.

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(update)

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The Centerville Christian Endeavor Church occupies a small parcel of land facing northwest onto Standley Street, near its intersection with Essex Street (Route 22). The building occupies most of its trapezoidal lot, with a modest front setback and minimal side setbacks. The land slopes up slightly from front to back and is maintained chiefly in lawn.

The building consists of a gabled, L-shaped main block with a square tower in its front interior corner and a large side addition. Walls are clad with vinyl siding and trim. Windows are typically multi-pane, double hung sash with vinyl trim (they were originally 6/6 sash). The main block rises 1 ½ stories from a granite rubble foundation to a steeply-pitched, front gable roof with a gabled side wing of similar volume. Each wing is 40 feet long with 26 feet wide gable ends. A one-story entrance vestibule with a hip roof and a pedimented entrance portico fills in the front corner of the L; it is surmounted by a two-stage tower with a flared, polygonal steeple.

The Standley Street façade (northwest) elevation of the main block is symmetrically composed, with three windows on the first floor and a semi-circular lunette in the half story. The first floor windows have peaked lintels with a diamond-shaped wood appliqué at the apex. Accessed by a wide wood staircase, the entrance vestibule contains double-leaf wood and glass paneled doors and a classically detailed, pedimented gable roof with Tuscan columns. The entrance bay is surmounted by a square tower with a blank first stage and a low second stage (enclosing a bell), which has a hipped skirt at the base and open sides framed by canted piers. An historic image shows the tower clad in dark wood shingles from the hipped skirt through the steeple. A single-leaf door accesses the basement level of the tower on its southwest elevation.

The northeast elevation of the main block features a narrow, shed-roofed extension of the main roof, which is dominated by a large, offset cross gable at the rear. Fenestration on this extension includes a single-leaf door with a wood staircase facing Standley Street, a basement door and an offset double-hung window on the long side wall, and a large circular window in the cross gable. The gabled south wing of the main block contains a small double-hung window offset in its half story; originally, its design matched the front façade exactly. A small chimney is located on the rear slope of the side wing, near its gable end.

Measuring 23 feet long by 26 feet deep, the side addition rises 1 ½ stories from a poured concrete foundation to a low, side gabled roof. Its three-bay, slightly asymmetrical Standley Street façade contains two windows and an offset, single-leaf doorway in the outer bay. A shed-roofed extension supported on plain, square posts shelters this entrance, which is accessed by a wood stairway parallel to the façade. The symmetrical, southwest elevation of the addition contains three windows across the first floor and a smaller window in the half story. A shed-roofed addition is visible on the rear slope of the addition's roof.

The Centerville Christian Endeavor Church is a lively, vernacular example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century, wood frame ecclesiastical architecture in Beverly. Despite the application of artificial siding and loss of wall and window trim, the building is notable for its picturesque massing, eclectic styling, corner tower, peaked façade window lintels, and formally detailed main entrance.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Centerville area, while still predominantly agricultural, developed a village center comprised of a public school and Sunday school (both in 1870), fire house (1880), and a branch public library and a streetcar railway along

*Continuation sheet 1*

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Essex Street (1890s). Several country estates were also established in Centerville in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as Ellery Sedgwick's Long Hill (572 Essex Street, 1923; BEV.257) and the home of Quincy Adams Shaw McKean and his wife Margaret Sargent McKean (87 Hull Street, ca. 1920; BEV.444).

Formal organization of the Centerville Christian Endeavor Church originated in the establishment of a bible study class and Sunday school in Centerville, which began meeting in the nearby Bald Hill School on Standley Street in 1870. The congregation, representing several Protestant denominations and worshipers from Beverly, Beverly Farms, and Wenham, refurbished the schoolhouse as a chapel. From 1880 to 1896, the congregation was known as the Centerville Religious Union. It incorporated as the Centerville Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor Corporation in 1897 and bought the land on which the present church stands in 1901. The congregation voted in 1906 to build a new church. Construction began in 1907 by Alfred J. Gallagher (ca. 1869-1938), a general contractor who lived nearby at 57 Standley Street, and was completed in 1908 for approximately \$6,000. According to a local newspaper account of the time, Henry Fricke, a summer resident at Pride's Cross, contributed \$500 to construction of the present building. A small parcel of land on the south side of the church building was purchased by the Centerville Improvement Society and given to the church in 1911; it became the location of the side addition, known as the Pine Room. In 1936, a circular stained glass window above the pulpit was given in memory of Edwin Hooper Appleton (1856-1936) and his wife Mary Alice Appleton (1855 – 1916) by their six children; it was fabricated by Wilbur H. Burnham of Boston. The "Pine Room" addition on the south side of the church was constructed in 1955 and dedicated in 1956. Vinyl siding was installed on the entire building in 2003.

In 1910, the church had no regular minister. Charles H. Patch, a market gardener who lived at 2 Hull Street, served as treasurer and collector. Benjamin I. Edwards was superintendent of the Sunday school; he worked as a florist and market gardener, with his business and home at 554 Essex Street. Early leaders of the congregation included multiple members of the Patch, Day, Elliott, Edwards, and Standley families; most were farmers and market gardeners, but they also encompassed a clerk, carpenter, civil engineer, coachman, and housekeeper. Early ministers included Rev. Clarence Blakeley Newton (1920), Rev. A. B. Ransom (1930), Pastor T. Downing Bowler (1950), Rev. Harold L. Herber (1960), and Rev. Otto J. Wiesmann (1965). The congregation remained nondenominational at least through 1960.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Northwest (façade) and southwest elevations



Historic image, ca. 1908: Northwest (façade) and southwest elevations (courtesy of Judith Kent)